

New Zealand Guided Tours

Grand Tour

Operator: Grand Pacific Tours

Days: 19

Start: Auckland

Finish: Christchurch

Our price: Check www.experiencenz.com

Enquiries: Email travel@experiencenz.com



Overview

The Grand New Zealand tour is a very comfortable and relaxed holiday through the North and South Islands.

Beginning in Auckland and finishing in Christchurch, the tour incorporates visits to some of the lesser-known regions of New Zealand such as the art deco city of Napier and the wine-producing region of Wairarapa.

Highlights

- Kauri Museum
- Waitangi Treaty Grounds
- Hole in the Rock Cruise
- Longlands Dairy Farm and Paradise Valley Springs wildlife park
- Rotorua Skyline Gondola, luge ride, Agrodome, thermal mud pools and geysers
- Volcanic Activity Centre
- Wairarapa Wine and Cheese Experience
- Cruise on the Interislander ferry across Cook Strait
- Olveston House and haggis ceremony
- Larnach Castle
- Glenfalloch Woodland Gardens
- Lakes District Museum
- Milford Sound cruise
- Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the TSS Earnslaw
- TranzAlpine rail journey
- City sights tour of Auckland, Napier, Wellington, and Christchurch

Tour itinerary

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

Day 1: Auckland

Fly into Auckland where you will be met by a Grand Pacific Tours representative and transferred to your hotel.

Accommodation: Mercure Auckland

Day 2: Auckland – Bay of Islands

Depart Auckland and travel to the Parry Kauri Park to see a magnificent example of a Kauri Tree. Enjoy a visit and informative talk at the Kauri Museum in Matakoho, then travel via Whangarei to Paihia, situated in the heart of the beautiful Bay of Islands. Explore a guided tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, the location of the signing of the treaty between the Maori tribes and the British. **B, D**

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands (1st of 2 nights)

Day 3: Bay of Islands

Today is a free day. Choose from the many optional activities available. The choice is yours and your Coach Captain will be available to assist. **B, D**

Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Bay of Islands (2nd of 2 nights)

Day 4: Bay of Islands – Auckland

This morning travel aboard a luxury catamaran to Cape Brett and the famous Hole in the Rock. Stopover at Otehei Bay before returning to Paihia. Travel south to Auckland. **B, D**

Accommodation: Mercure Auckland

Day 5: Auckland – Kaiaua – Rotorua

Travel to Kaiaua, where you enjoy an unforgettable entertainment experience at Banner's Theatre. Continue via Cambridge to Matamata and Longlands Dairy Farm. Enjoy a farm tour followed by a delicious home cooked lunch. This afternoon travel the scenic coast road via Tauranga to the geothermal town of Rotorua. **B, L, D**

Accommodation: Sudima Hotel (1st of 2 nights)

Day 6: Rotorua

Today begins with a Gondola ride to Skyrides Restaurant where a buffet breakfast and spectacular views are on offer. Travel to the Agrodome where you see performing sheep, a shearing display and sheep dog trial. Next visit Paradise Valley Springs, a superb wildlife park where you can hand feed rainbow trout. Some free time is available before an afternoon transfer to see the boiling mud pools and the awesome Geysers that Rotorua is famous for. This evening you will experience an entertaining Maori Hangi and Concert. **B, D**

Accommodation: Sudima Hotel (2nd of 2 nights)

Day 7: Rotorua – Napier – Masterton

Depart Rotorua and travel along the Thermal Explorer Highway to visit Huka Falls and Lake Taupo. Continue to Napier, our 'Art Deco Capital' for a city tour. Enjoy some free time to

explore the fascinating architecture before travelling through the Wairarapa wine region. At the hotel this evening a pre-dinner wine and cheese experience will be presented. **B, D**
Accommodation: Copthorne Hotel and Resort Solway Park

Day 8: Masterton – Martinborough – Wellington

Today travel through the quaint townships of Carterton and Greytown to Martinborough, home to family owned boutique wineries and olive groves. Enjoy time to explore this delightful wine village where the streets have been laid out in the shape of the Union Jack. Travel through the picturesque Rimutaka mountain range to New Zealand's capital, Wellington. Enjoy an extensive city tour highlighting Wellington's history and culture. **B, D**
Accommodation: James Cook Grand Chancellor

Day 9: Wellington – Picton – Blenheim

Enjoy free time this morning to explore Wellington at leisure. Suggested options include a visit to Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum or a tour through the Parliament Buildings. This afternoon board the Interislander ferry for your Cook Strait crossing and on, through the Marlborough Sounds to Picton where you board your coach for the short journey to Blenheim. **B, D**

Accommodation: Heartland Hotel Marlborough

Day 10: Blenheim – Kaikoura – Christchurch

Tour through Marlborough Country, famous for its food and wine then travel to the quaint fishing village of Kaikoura. Continue onto the garden city of Christchurch. A city sights tour will showcase the grand architecture, historic homesteads, immaculate parks and the picturesque Avon River. **B, D**

Accommodation: Copthorne Durham Street or Heartland Hotel Cotswold

Day 11: Christchurch – Omarama

Travel through the southern Canterbury Plains to Lake Tekapo. See the brilliant turquoise water, visit the Church of the Good Shepherd, view the Sheep Dog Statue and marvel at Mt Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. The opportunity is available (time and weather permitting) to enjoy a scenic flight (optional) over the Southern Alps. **B, D**

Accommodation: Heritage Gateway Hotel

Day 12: Omarama – Dunedin

See Lake Benmore before following the Waitaki River to Oamaru, famous for its limestone. On arrival in Dunedin enjoy an informative tour including a visit to Olveston House, a prestigious historic home. A Scottish evening will be presented comprising of bagpipes, great food, special haggis ceremony and gift. **B, D**

Accommodation: Mercure Leisure Lodge

Day 13: Dunedin – Te Anau

Travel along the Otago Peninsula to Larnach Castle where you will hear of the tragic and scandalous history on a guided tour. Visit Glenfalloch Woodland Gardens and view the superb collection of flowers, followed by a delightful morning tea. Farewell Dunedin and

travel through Balclutha and Gore to Te Anau, your overnight stay. Tonight you may like to visit the Te Anau Glow Worm Caves (optional). **B, D**
Accommodation: Distinction Luxmore Hotel (1st of 2 nights)

Day 14: Te Anau – Milford Sound – Te Anau

This morning enjoy a fascinating drive to Milford Sound where you board your launch for a cruise on this magnificent fiord. See the spectacular Bowen Falls and towering Mitre Peak as you enjoy a picnic lunch. This afternoon return to Te Anau and some free time. **B, L, D**
Accommodation: Distinction Luxmore Hotel (2nd of 2 nights)

Day 15: Te Anau – Queenstown

Travel to Arrowtown, an old gold mining village, and visit the Lakes District Museum before continuing to Queenstown. This evening board the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw and cruise across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak Station. Enjoy the best of New Zealand's high country cuisine in the Colonel's Homestead. After dinner enjoy a short farm tour then reboard the TSS Earnslaw for a sing along by the piano on your return cruise. **B, D**
Accommodation: Mercure Resort (1st of 2 nights)

Day 16: Queenstown

Today is a free day. There are plenty of sightseeing options and your Coach Captain is available to assist. This evening is also free. You may choose to dine out at one of Queenstown's many fine restaurants. **B**
Accommodation: Mercure Resort (2nd of 2 nights)

Day 17: Queenstown – Franz Josef

Travel via Haast Pass to the West Coast, an area of stunning beauty. See the snow capped peaks of the Southern Alps as you travel north to Fox Glacier. Experience a scenic flight (optional, weather permitting) over the spectacular glaciers before continuing to Franz Josef. **B, D**
Accommodation: Scenic Hotel Franz Josef Glacier

Day 18: Franz Josef – Christchurch

Travel to Hokitika and visit the Greenstone factory. Continue to Arthur's Pass where you board the TranzAlpine, renowned as one of the great train journeys of the world. Travel through lush beech forest, skirt lakes and follow rivers till you climb through the Otira Tunnel to Arthur's Pass in the centre of the Southern Alps. Descend through spectacular gorges, river valleys and over massive viaducts before completing your journey at Christchurch. This evening enjoy a special farewell dinner including musical entertainment with your new found friends. **B, D**
Accommodation: Copthorne Durham Street or Heartland Hotel Cotswold

Day 19: Christchurch

Time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for your flight home after a great holiday. **B**

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